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New-Dork Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1873.

It is said that Spain has agreed to a surrender of the Virginius; our Government has agreed to a delay until noon to-day. — A further reorganization of the French Ministry has taken place. — Cartagena was bombarded for eight hours on Wednesday.

It is rumored in Washington that Mr. Garfield will be succeeded as Chairman of the Committee on Appropriaof the laterier declares the working of the Indian peace policy encouraging, and condemns the payment of Indian annuities in money. ---- A meeting of Philadelpnia workingmen adopted resolutions demanding that the City Councils supply occupation for the unem-

Thanksgiving was quietly observed, less interest being taken in the entertainments at the benevolent institunell Commission with a plan upon which to conduct their investigation. = Thermometer, 340, 310, 340.

At a time like the present, when bankruptcy is as common as the influenza, every one will read with interest the opinion of Attorney-General Williams, printed in THE TRIBUNE today, on the validity of payments made by debtors to bankrupt creditors.

We publish this morning another of the claborate and careful series of reports by which we are giving a complete picture of the state of trade throughout the country. Our letters this morning describe the condition of affairs in and about Taunton and New-Bedford, Massachusetts, giving valuable details of the production and present activity of all the varied industries which are the life of those cities.

It now appears that Messrs. Ernoul and Batbie accompany M. Beulé out of the old MacMahon Cabinet, and Messrs. Fourton and de Larcy take their places in the new. It cannot be denied that the Cabinet as reconstructed is better and stronger than before. It has been arranged, secondarily, as a monarchical ministry, but primarily as a machine for carrying on and strengthening the government of MacMahon in such a way that the Duke de Broglie shall not lose office. It is admirably adapted to effect this purpose.

The extracts we publish from the leading English journals show in a striking manner jealousy has disappeared from the discussion enduring rock of specie payments, to bring all the future; but their location and grade are of Cuban matters in England. The tone of

journals of the United States. They recognize exaggerated statements of suffering still en- future to repair the errors which ought to the necessity of our interference and the justice of our demands upon Spain, at the same time that they regret the situation in which the outrages at Santiago have placed the Republican Government at Madrid.

One of our Washington letters gives a rapid sketch of the character of the work which is likely first to engage the attention of Congress this Winter. There will evidently be enough to do to exercise the energies of the most industrious and ambitious of the younger members who may be emulous of the labor and the fame of reformers. The investigation of the lobbies of the past and the circumvention of the lobbies of the present will be ocenpation enough for those who wish what older Congressmen call the "honesty flurry" to last until a new kind of conscience in matters of bribery and corruption is introduced in the Capitol. These things may be rather tiresome to the veteran politicians, but their constituents are, as a general thing, more thoroughly tired of the transgression than they are of its detection and punishment.

The quiet and rational observance of Thanksgiving Day yesterday is chronicled at full in our columns this morning. Preaching and practice had each its fair exemplars among those who took the most prominent part in the exercises of the day. There were a great many eloquent sermons, some of which we commend to our readers; thousands of pleasant domestic rennions; and a more than usually general and munificent thoughtfulness displayed by charitable people in behalf of those to whom holidays bring no means of enjoying them. At numerous institutions thousands of the poor partook of the best dinner which the year has as yet afforded them. This is no tritle, though it is easy to sneer at it. It is true that a slice of Thanksgiving turkey will not last the year round, but it is well, nevertheless, even if only once in a while, to femind those who have been unfortunate in the struggle for existence that they are not entirely forgotten and disowned by their fellow creatures.

It seems that the Administration think they

may have been a little hasty in concluding that the negotiations at Madrid were satisfactorily brought to an end. The time for the final answer of the Spanish Government to our demands has been extended until noon to-day, and there is no positive assurance felt in official circles in Washington that the reply will be a satisfactory one. It will be only prudent now for the Government to wait until something definite arrives from Madrid before setting the peace bells to ringing again. The concession which we demand from Spain is a just one. The Virginius is prima facie an American vessel. It must be given up to us, and our Government can then determine how far its registration and voyage were fraudulent or criminal. This is an enormous concession for Spain to make; we have shown how dangerous, how nearly fatal it will be to the Castelar government. If they make it, it will be the most courageous thing a Spanish Ministry has done in our time. If they do not, there is probably no escape from consequences which we would deplore. Our Government has already gone too far to retreat in case of an absolute refusal of Spain to give up the Virginus. There is still a possible loophole of compromise for the Spanish Cabinet. It is said that Admiral Polo has informed his government that the papers of the vessel were all regular. They may take this statement as satisfying their own demand for preliminary investigation, and yield upon that. But all this is mere speculation, and our readers may be sure they know as much of the issue as the President himself.

GOOD CHEER AND WARNING.

Business men come back from their Thanksgiving dinners with brighter hopes than they have dared indulge for months. Visibly and palpably "things are on the mend." For a long time after the panic had spent its force men stood still, distrustful of each other and afraid of the future. Now it is not only true that the financial outlook is better, butwhat is far more important-that the business public are thoroughly convinced that it is better. The result may be seen in the evidences of rapid recuperation on all hands -in the advance in breadstuffs and cottonin the steady export demand-in the absence of further reports of the stoppage of manufactories-in the reopening of some that have already made arrangements for the profitable renewal of work-in the solid position of the banks-the renewals of suspended houses-the appreciation even of railroad and telegraph securities-and especially in the general conviction that, after all, there is no danger of "the bottom's dropping out." may mention, incidentally, that we can already perceive the same improvement in our own business-the advance in receipts being marked in all its departments, and in some important ones even rising for the last week or two to double what they were in the corresponding weeks of last year.]

It is all a splendid tribute to the elasticity of our people and the strength of our resources. No country in the world could recover so rapidly from calamity so severe. But before the panic we felt constrained to warn our readers of its coming ;-and now we feel prophesying evil things. We warn business men of the danger of too rapid inflation of values, and specially of the imminent peril period of currency expansion. Already over ten millions of the so-called forty-four million reserve are out; and, as THE TRIBUNE long ago admonished the Secretary, his improvident use of his resources in the Autumn has left him with no means of carrying on the Government save the printing press. For weeks to come his expenditures are sure to outrun his receipts from one to three millions per week. We count upon the reissue of the whole fortyfour millions as among the possibilities; -of a

large part of it as an absolute certainty. But worse remains. We are well assured that the Administration seriously contemplates some financial measure looking to an expansion of the currency every year, "to move the "crops." Who does not see that-no matter what efforts may be made to retire the surplus again after the emergency has passedthis really means a permanent expansion that must run the usual course and end in the old disaster? We implore all who believe in having money that means something-all who comprehend that shin-plasters are not "the best currency in the world,"-all who yet hope how completely every feeling of international to see our business once more planted on the

tailed by the panic, will be dexterously used to have been avoided in the present. precipitate us into the fever of a new era of abundant paper and universal gambling. We are geiting on well enough as it is. Business is all right, and will pull through. Let it alone! Urge your Congressmen not to tinker with the currency!

LAYING OUT THE ANNEXED DISTRICT OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

The part of Westchester County about to be annexed to the City of New-York comprises the towns of Morrisania, West Farms, and Kingsbridge. It borders on the Harlem River for several miles, and includes a number of populous and growing villages. With the opening of the Harlem River to navigation. the adjacent territory will be still more rapidly filled up. In a few years another populeus city will be thus formed on the skirts of New-York. To prepare for this coming population the Legislature has charged the Commissioners of the Department of Publie Parks of this city with the duty of laying out the whole territory to be annexed. They are required to establish such streets, avenues, and public places "as in their opinion can be made with benefit to the property affected and the public interest." The Commissioners have ample power, and there are but few serious obstacles in the way of the work. Morrisania, it is true, is already laid out in streets and in part built up, but it is yet subject to the revision of the Commissioners, and West Farms and Kingsbridge are still lying in open farms, with but few important roads or settlements in the way. The district ranges in elevation from the level of tidewater along the Hudson and Harlem Rivers to a hight, at half a mile from the shore, of 150 to 200 feet above tide; but these elevations are nowhere precipitous, and in he most abrupt the side slopes are still gentle enough to furnish ample space for roads ascending more or less obliquely so as to obtain any grade or degree of inclination that may be desired. Whatever existing roads do not conform to all the requirements of a great city the Commissioners are charged to discontinue or modify. If, therefore, they have the foresight and the courage to do their work properly the annexed district will be well laid out, and future generations will not have occasion to mourn over the blunders of their ancesters. The details of the location of the roads the Commissioners must leave to their Engineer, but there are some general princioles applicable to the work of which the pubc interest will demand of them a careful

1. Main lines of continuous road must be provided to give the best possible road communication between the different parts of the district, and also with the City of New-York. These roads, as indeed all of the roads, must conform somewhat to the surface, but they should be as direct as the ground and the necessities of the grade will permit, and the inclinations must be such as to allow an easy trot in each direction. The best authorities fix the steepest allowable grade at three or four, or at the outside five, in one hundred. Any steeper ascent greatly impairs the practicable traffic and consequent usefulness of the road, and hence damages all property fronting on it. The Administration des Ponts et Chaussées of France many years ago made 5 in 100 the limit for the roads of that country. Telford's great Helyhead road through the mountains of North Wales does not exceed 1 in 30, or about 3 in 100, except in one or two instances for short distances. It may be laid down as a rule therefore that no main road in the annexed district ought to have a steeper ascentthan 3 or 4 in 100, or at the outside possibly, in some special cases, 5 in 100. Nor should this latter rate be exceeded in subordinate

2. Several important railways operated by steam run frequent trains through this district at high rates of speed. The New-York Central and Hudson River, the Harlem, and New-Haven Railroads have no means of access to New-York except through this district. The high speed of trains on these roads is as necessary to New-York as it is to the railroads themselves, and this territory should be so laid out as to permit high speed without endangering travel in the streets. Hence no public road, or at any rate no main road. should cross any railway operated by steam except by a bridge or sunken way. This point should be insisted on, even should further legislation be necessary to attain it.

3. These conditions of continuous lines of road, of easy grade, bridging all railroads and connecting all parts of the district with New-York, are first in importance. Subordinate to these conditions, and also respecting as far as possible existing improvements and the present convenience of owners, secondary roads should subdivide the land in the best manner for future use (not necessarily for present use), and all roads as far as practicable should give convenient access to the land on each side.

As a rule it cannot be expected that judicious lines of road can be agreed upon by the owners of the land through which they pass. In very few instances can it have been the business of these owners to study the general question of laying out a city. And even were they competent to say where a road should equally shut up to the thankless task of be made, and disinterested enough to fix it, if need be, through their own house or dooryard, it would not be fair to impose on them the duty of saying where it should cut their in which they stand of an entry upon another | neighbor's lawn, or how near it should approach his barn or his strawberry patch. Many men would sacrifice the road rather than offend a neighbor or submit to any encroachment upon their own temporary conveniences. But the Commissioners are in a condition to act without fear or favor, and hence it is that the work bas been put in their hands. And it must sometimes happen that what some persons affected may call an arbitrary exercise of power is necessary for the interests even of the very lands whose owners most strenuously object. Present convenience or fancy, to most of us, obscures the view of future or remote good. For the interests of all the land through which a read passes are best served by placing it in the best position as a whole, so as to secure to it, as far as possible, the importance of a great thoroughfare, even when to gain this end some portion of the land be less advantageously cut than others. The whole cannot suffer without each individual suffering with it.

The manner in which these roads shall be made, whether of stone, or of gravel, or pavement, or in some other way, is a question of possible influence to bear on Congress against pressing questions of to-day. If their lines and sonal interest in the trust, and to whom a larly convicted or hang none.

all these newspapers, however widely they the schemes of the inflationists. We assure grades are now properly adjusted, adjoining keg of specie or a bundle of bank-notes bemay differ in political sympathies, is the same them that the peril is grave; and that the property can be intelligently improved, and longing to another would, so far as a malas that of the reasonable and self-respecting needs of all the debtor classes as well as no costly work will need to be undone in the appropriation was concerned, no more suggest

A CITY CURRENCY.

A committee of the Board of Assistant Aldermen has been appointed to confer with a committee of the other branch of the Common Conneil, and with the Mayor and Controller, on the subject of issuing "a temporary legal-tender "eurrency for the purpose of paying the necessary expenses of the various departments of the City Government." Before our venerable municipal fathers have pushed their inquiry a great way, they will be surprised by the discovery of some important facts. In the first place they will learn that the City Government is able to pay its necessary expenses without any help from them. Taxes are coming in promptly. The Controller has a comfortable balance in the banks. If all liabilities are not promptly met as they arise the reason for delay, whatever it may be, is not the lack of money. Mr. Green failed to negotiate a loan the other day, but it was for permanent not for current expenses which have to be provided for immediately.

In the second place, the committee will learn that the Common Council cannot issue "legal tenders." The corporation may print shin-plasters, as many corporations did in 1861, before the Government fractional currency was manufactured; but it cannot make such promises to pay a legal tender, and no man can be forced to regard them as money. This sort of currency, being an illegal addition to the debt, would have no value in law, and its issue would be an offense on the part of every officer responsible for putting it into circulation. That it would work enormous mischief to the community admits of no question. It would strike at the credit of the city, which has always stood so high, and make it difficult for the Controller to sell any bonds here-

after at a reasonable price. The object of the Common Council is to supply the Departments of Public Works and Parks with funds enough to employ numbers of idle workmen on the city improvements. That is a praiseworthy object, but the only way to earry it out is to sell the bonds which the Legislature has already authorized the City to issue. These wild schemes of a municipal carrency are a serious obstacle to any negotiation of the securities of the corporation. If the Aldermen and Assistant Aldermen will cease interfering with the public credit, they will soon find that capitalists are ready to take all the bonds Mr. Green has to offer, and that the difficulty he has recently experienced is only for a short time. Meanwhile, however, thousands of able-bodied men go hungry; and we say to our bankers and all rich men who would do something to relieve the present distress that the quickest and easiest way to help their starving brethren is to invest some of their spare cash in the bonds of the City of New-York.

NOT MINE!

The conviction of a great municipal thief, the defalcations and insolvencies which of late have been so frequent, teach a lesson which any man traisted with the custody of money may well improve. At such a time, even moral platitudes acquire a fresh and impressive force. There is no department of the Law which so thoroughly recognizes the necessity of good faith and personal honor as that of Bailments; although, in a certain sense, all Commercial Law appeals to the same qualities of character. The truth is that our money transactions with each other are so fictitious, as a rule, in their nature, that without reasonable security for the observance of truth on either side, most affairs of whatever commercial character must cease. Putting aside oads without absolute necessity. Oblique all artificial representatives of values, money angles are much less objectionable than high itself cannot be easily handled in the great amounts required by trade. No very rich man. no corporation, hardly even any bank, can remain in immediate possession of personal estate. The representatives of value must be of a nature to be conveniently bestowed and to be extemporaneously transferred; and the power of transfer must be confided, if not to an individual, at any rate to a selected and trusted few. Even when one man is placed as a check upon another, we have still instances all too frequent of collusion and of a copartnership in thievery. We may as well admit, once for all, that we can have no financial trust that does not carry with it the opportunity of stealing. The only question is, whether we shall be forced back to a system of barter. In the old Turkish bazaars, occupied by half a dozen tenants, each had a private and particular key. If one of the shopkeepers was prevented by sickness or absence from opening, all the rest suspended business until his recovery or return. We cannot trade in that We must trust each other. After adopting a hundred safeguards, securities, precautions, we come to personal confidence at last. Considering the high social standing and ex-

cellence of character which so many men have forfeited by falling into the temptation to steal money intrusted to them, it hardly becomes any one in such position to say that he is himself perfectly safe. Probably few begin to filch without some intention of making restitution. This is the devil's bait which has led so many down into the depths of degradation and despair. Men promise themselves that they will restore what they steal, partly because they have still a lingering feeling of honesty and partly because they have no relish for the severities of the law. They resolve to pay back what they have simply borrowed; they will be saved by the act and nobody the worse; and so they cheat themselves while they are cheating others, and become involved in a hopeless moral confusion. Loss follows loss, and fresh defaleations are resorted to in the mad hope of retrieval, until a point has been reached at which it is impossible. We need not dwell upon the mortification, misery, and suffering which are sure to follow-the dishonor, flight, and exile, or the prisoner's dock and the convict's cell. Such has been the fate of many men not originally bad and not felonious in the worst sense of the word, even after they have fallen-of men who would bestow a portion of their ill-gotten wealth to feed the hungry and clothe the naked-of men who have been all along good husbands, good fathers, and good neighbors. What is the remedy for this fatal hallucina-

tion which attacks and ruins so many otherwise sane? May it not be at least partially found in constantly keeping in mind that possession does not constitute property, nine points of the law though it may be? There have been, no doubt there are yet, bankers to whom the custody of untold wealth would earry with it not the faintest notion of per-

A thoroughly honest man who does business for others as well as business for himself, will keep the two entirely dis-A cashler or teller when he tinct. draws his monthly salary knows that the money is his; but these securities, these bills, this specie, except so far as safe-keeping is concerned, should no more imply money to him than the tables and chairs of his office. We believe that there are many honest men yet left in this city, in places of great responsibility, who feel as to the paper values confided to them much as returned Californians used to feel when they found it impossible to regard our Eastern currency as money. They comprehend that these securities have value and as to others represent money; as to themselves, nothing of the kind. A cashier, treasurer or teller who can keep up this feeling is comparatively safe, but the moment it is at all lost, the danger begins. We are speaking not of deliberate and prepense knavishness, but of those loose moral ideas reimprovements which can very well wait, and garding money into which some who handle a great deal of it are in peril of drifting. There is but one safeguard against dishonesty, and that is the perpetually present reflection: "These bonds, these coins, these banknotes are not mine, and not mine even for mere temporary appropriation any more than " for final and intentional larceny." There is

> The buried treasures of pirates, fascinating as they are to think about, have long since grown to be considered of the stuff that dreams are made of. But for many a myth there is a positive and pressue foundation, and even the pirates' gold of the sixteenth century has come to the light of day in 1873. Not far from the City of St. John a boy, while out gaining the other day, found in a high clay bank which had caved away suddenly a quantity of broken pottery, and likewise a quantity of coin. This coin was of gold, and of two kinds, both ancient. One sort was evidently of Indian origin, apparently Rindostance, coined before any vessel save some Spanish or Portuguese galleon, had rounded the Cape of Good Hope. These are said to have been worth probably \$5 apiece when they were coined, and are now about the thickness of an old English spade guinea. Most of the treasure, however, is in Spanish pistoles and half pistoles of a date not later than 1556. The spot where it was discovered is near navigable waters, but cannot be reached from the sea without difficulty and danger. A very ancient story told around the Bay of Fundy is to the effect that an English pirate, after having plundered and burned a Spanish galleon, was chased up the bay, and left money buried on the spot where these coins were found. The clay bank concealed its deposits for long years, but has proved in the end no safer than other banks.

The Heathen Chinee has found a defender. The

are "Not Mine!"

Rev. W. H. H. Murray of Boston attempts to show that if we think we are at all superior to the almondeyed race we are very much mistaken. In the first place, China is old, he says. So it is. That conceded, he goes on to say how carefully it has kept up its arts and its sciences; how it understood the circulation of the blood 2,300 years ago; how it has an aristocracy of brains and knows not the face of Veneering and the sword of the General Bourn; and how it has a religion of pure rationalism, a religion beautiful, humane and active, and ignerant of the power of persecution. Which is a good deal for a clergymau of Puritau Boston to say. To the culightened and virtuous people of such a country shall we send American profunity and office-holders, Iltinois, Arkausas, or Texas ignorance, or, as was done recently, three missionaries and \$40 barrels of rum on the same ship? This is what the Chinee's friend, Mr. Murray, wants to know. These being civilization, civilization might better take care of itself before it goes to take care of the beathen. The trouble is, says Mr. Murray, we haven't reduced our religion to practice; what we need is not more ecclesiastical machinery, but more piety. Here every one must sincerely agree with him, and heartily hope that his opinion will have a moving effect upon the Jellybys and other wild barbarians

M. Victorien Sardon finds it hard kicking against the pricks of Republicanism. His "Uncle Sam" which made so complete a failure in the United States has been produced in Paris and meets with the same fate there. It is regarded as an absurd bit of caricature without any merit but that of exaggeration, and with no purpose except mere malice. The critics are unanimous in its condemnation, and M. Sardou is so accustomed to success that he does not take kindly to criticism. He has written a letter to his friend M. Paul de Cassagnae complaining of the treatment he has received, and that gentleman has responded in a gushing epistle which must he worse than any amount of criticism to a quickwitted and sensitive man. He warmly congratulates poor Sardou upon his play on the ground that though it may fail as a drama, it is all right as an attack upon republicanism and a defense of reacion. As the author of the "Maison Neuve" was a very fair Republican a few years ago, he may still somewhat shy of being slapped on the back so publicly by an Imperialist champion, and called brother by men who would like to bring back the middle ages. There is scarcely a man of letters in France, no matter what his political or religious complexion, who would not wince a little at the praise of M. Cassagnae or Louis Veuillot.

Every one who passed any time at Washington during the administration of Mr. Johnson will be especially shocked to hear of the suicide of Col. Robert Morrow, one of his Private Secretaries, who was well known in the political and social circles of the Capital for four years. His youthful and prepossessing appearance, his easy and courteous manners, made him a general favorite. Before Mr. Johnson's term expired young Morrow was made a Paymaster in the regular army, and left Washington with troops of friends and every promise of a prosperous career. He was the youngest man of his grade in the service, and gifted with more than the average of physical and mental capacity. Yet after the lapse of less than five years the news of his selfslaughter comes to close a history which should have been far different. The bare fact of the suicide is all that has yet been communicated, but it is only natural to await further developments in that line of defalcations and breaches of trust of which we have had so many recent examples.

Editorial work always has its discouragements, but he who labors to get out a Second-Advent newspaper under the impression that the world will be destroyed before the newspaper can reach his readers, engages in a peculiar if not a disheartening task. Mr. Bishop, who is a Terry Islander and Millenarian, and prints a warning journal called The Watchman's Cry, acknowledges that he sends out the current number with some misgivings that "it may never reach those for whom its words of comfort and encouragement are intended." But he doesn't expect ever to issue another Cry, for in about a week all the good will meet in the eternal kingdom.

The opponents of capital punishment in Pennsylvania have already begun to move in behalf of Udderzook, the convicted murderer, who certainly deserves the balter if any man can deserve it. We are glad, however, that the Philadelphia Peace Society is taking hold of the matter at the right end, and is consistent enough to begin by asking for the abolition of the Death Penalty. Experience has shown that nothing is gained by overriding the law in single cases. The only way is to hang all propTHE BRITISH MINISTRY.

FAILURE TO ENUNCIATE A POLICY. DISAPPOINTMENT AMONG MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT -MR. GLADSTONE'S VIEWS OF PARLIAMENTARY STRATEGY-THE JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TELEURE. LONDON, Nov. 13 .- A good deal of disappointment is expressed at the failure of Mr. Gindstone to announce a policy at the Lord Mayor's dinner. This is the fince, as Mr. Bright told us at Bermingham, when Cabinet secrets are made up. There had been Cabinet meetings. The Ministers had all got back to town. The country was waiting. The Lord Mayor's dinner is the time-honored occasion for uttering some sort of a war-cry, or for giving, at least, some hint to those distracted souls who have been living for two or three months in a Parliamentary purgatory. Nobody is more to be pitied, containly, than a member who has to indet an exacting and inquisitive constitnency, without knowing what he has to say. The greater part of the members of the House of Commons are used to baving their minds made up for them. Just now the number of questions to which they are expected to give an answer of some The County Franchise, the kind is rather large. The County Franchise, the Income Tax, Local Taxation, Ireland in some shape or other, the 25th clause of the Education Act-these, and not a few others, are matters on which the Government must take one line or another in the coming session, and, what is still more to the point, in the coming general election. Why will they not say what line ! It is cruel to leave their supporters so long in the dark. It is awkward for a member of the House to a limit that he has no opinion, or that he is waiting for the Cabinet to decide what his opinion shall be. protection in two little words, and these words | He may be a small man in the House, but he is a great man among his constituents. They consult him as an oracle. Yet they are ill content with oracular answers. -. It was in Mr. Gladstone's power, perhaps, to put

all these worthy people out of their misery. There were other and stronger motives for doing it. The Conservative Reaction has been followed by a Liberal Reaction. Unexpectedly to themselves, I believe, Ministers find the allegiance of the party returning to them, and the support of the neutral classes ready once more to be given to the Liberal party. They know that the condition of profiting by this sudden Reaction is Action. A Conservative party can afford to do nothing-the object of its ex istence is that nothing shall be done. But a Liberal party must have a programme, a hind of its own, and vigor enough to act on it. It was the belief that Mr. Gladstone's Ministry had lost courage and purpose which brought discredit upon it, and caused everybody to forecast its near fall. It was an unexpected display of spirit, of energy in fighting a succession of desperate battles, and the return to it of a man whose name was synonymous with courage and conviction that restored to it something of its old popularity. But some time has since passed, and people are waiting with impatience to know what after all its new programme is to be, and whether the present leaders of the party are willing still to lead it, and whither. If, therefore, they have made up their minds on the questions above enumerated, or on any one of them, it was, I think, a mistake not to say so. The reiterated and unanswerable criticism of the Liberals upon the Conservatives has been that the latter had no policy. It would be the greatest of blumders to ermit the same thing to be said of themselves.

Mr. Gladetone, with his usual lack of quick percep tion of popular feeling, treats it all as a matter of Parliamentary strategy, and jauntily promises to deal with controversies in another arena. He declares himself content to abide by the judgment of Parliament. He is conscious, he says, of the responibility of Parliament to the country, and his inner idea seems to be that he is to persuade Parliament, and Parliament, in turn, to persuade the country, to support Mr. Gladstone. The process is in fact precisely the reverse. It is public opinion which acts on Parliament, and Parliament which conveys it in a more or lose refracted state to the mind of Mr. Gladstone. He would be a greater Minister could he but gather it direct. If he understood his countrymen, thought with them, and felt with them. as Mr. Bright does, or even as Lord Palmerston did with certain classes of them, there would be simost no limit to Mr. Gladstone's power. He has the advantage now of Mr. Bright's counsel, but he undergoes, now as before, the subtle influence of men who represent a totally different order of ideas. The qualities of mind which make him dall in detecting great popular movements make him curiously sensitive to those social and hereditary influences which still wield so enormous a power in England matters. In the daily conduct of affairs they are felt almost as much as ever, and Mr. Gladstone is not likely to emancipate himself from them in a

Nor, I may add, from those traditions which cer

tain bodies of men hand down from generation to

generation for their own benefit. Look at the re-

cent legal changes. Vice-Chancellor Wickens died

a fortnight ago, and Mr. Charles Hall succeeds him. Why? Because Sir Richard Bagallay is a Conservative. Mr. Hall is a barrister of good attainments and position, but it is the misfortune, both of the Chancery and Common Law Bars that a great mafority of both, including a majority of the ablest men of both, are Conservatives. But poll the Chaucery Bar, irrespectively of politics, and Sir Richard Bagallay would, I presume, carry off most voices for the first place. Certainly Mr. Hall would not. This, however, may be said to be a rule of politics in other countries than England. Even in America, the polities of a candidate for the Bench are some times considered, so let us take a case of a different kind. Not long after the Vice-Chanceller, the Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas died also. His successor is to be Sir John Coloridge, the present Attorney-General. Why? Because the Bar. or any other body, regard Sir John Coleridge as the fittest man for the place? Nothing of the kind. Because he happens to be Attorney-General at the time of Sir Wm. Bovill's death, and the Attorney-General for the time being has a recognized prescriptive right to the first Chief-Justiceship that falls vacant. That is mixing up politics and law in a way which is to the credit and profit of neither. The Attorney-General most be a lawyer, it is true, but he must also be a member of the House of Commons; that is, he must be a politician. In fact he is usually a very keen one, and a strong partisan as in the present case. The result is that the only road to the chief places on the bench is through the sometimes rather muddy waters of politics. A barrister must get into the House if he hopes for the highest prize in his profession, and it is very seldom indeed that a man has strength and ability to be at the same time a thorough lawyer and a successful politician. Sir John Coleridge had a moderate practice before he became Solicitor-General. It is one of the curiosities of the Tichborne case that his share in it was a very different one from that first assigned him. Mr. Hawkins was Sir John Coleridge's senior at the bar, and immeasurably superior to him in reputation, especially as a cross-examining counsel. It was always intended that he should lead in the civil trial. But when Sir John was made Solicitor-General he became, by a legal fiction, the senior of Mr. Hawkins, and the traditions of the bar then required that he should take precedence of Mr. Hawkins. He did so, with the result so bluntly proclaimed the other day by Lord Chief-Justice Cockburn that the Glaimant "beat Sir John Coleridge" on the cross-examination. Sir John might, no doubt, be a very learned lawyer, and a great one, and even a successful one in pratice, without that particular talent of cross-examination; but in no department has he wen high fame. He is not reckoned a learned lawyer, and he will not add great strength to the bench. But he wants the place, and Mr. Gladstone thinks it impossible to dony it to him, and if he desires to deny it to him, it is only because he desires to retain Sir John's services in the house, and does not wish Mr. Henry James, the new Solicitor-General to become so suddenly Attorney-General, as he must; having

also a prescriptive and traditional right. Between Mr. Gladstone and Sir John Coloridge there if